Voluntary Observing Ship Program

The mission of the Voluntary Observing Ship (VOS) program is two-fold: (1) to collect and disseminate critical real-time maritime weather observations through the recruitment and support of ships to fulfill National needs and international agreements supporting commerce, forecasts and warning programs, and the Safety Of Life At Sea (SOLAS) worldwide, and (2) to define the global climate and help measure extreme weather events, climate variability, and long-term climate changes.

VOS operates at no cost to the vessel, with communication charges, observing equipment and reporting supplies furnished by the National Weather Service.

REMEMBER: HELP IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF FORECASTS AND WARNINGS, CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENHANCEMENT OF SAFETY AT SEA.
Only YOU know the weather at your position. Report It!

From the very beginning, ship's meteorological observations were recognized as being essential for the provision of safety related meteorological services for ships at sea, as well as for climatological purposes.

Port Meteorological Officers (PMOs)

PMOs support observing programs aboard Voluntary Observing Ships. They are responsible for recruitment and training of new vessels as observers and also for ensuring the quality of observations from vessels actively participating in the program.

In addition to training officers/crew to successfully participate in the VOS program, PMOs provide insight and resources for ships marine forecasting needs. It is the intent that the VOS program provide assistance to improve the basic knowledge base on methods and products available to mariners.

Websites of Interest for further information:

NOAA
http://www.noaa.gov

National Weather Service
http://www.weather.gov

VOS
http://www.vos.noaa.gov

National Data Buoy Center
http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov

Mariners Weather Log
http://www.vos.noaa.gov/mwl.shtml

U.S. Coast Guard Navigation Center
http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/marcomms/

World Meteorological Organization
Working Together in weather, climate and water

AMVER/SEAS, OBSJMA & TURBOWIN Software

TURBOWIN
Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute
Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment

OBSJMA
Japan Meteorological Agency

AMVER/SEAS

Software (E-LOGBOOKS)
Endorsed by the
World Meteorological Organization

AMVER/SEAS
Developed by NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory in cooperation with the U.S. Coastguard for all Voluntary Observing Ships.

TURBOWIN
Developed by the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute with contributions from several National Meteorological Services.

OBSJMA
Developed by Japan Meteorological Agency.

Observation Encoding Software
- Provided at no cost to all participating ships.
- Observing/user training provided.
- Assistance/training in transmittal setup (e-mail/or inmarsat C).
- Cost of transmitting via inmarsat C at no cost to the ship.

Benefits of using E-Logbooks
- Guides observers through complete weather observations, step by step.
- Encodes observations for transmission into proper BBXX code (ship observation code).
- Performs Quality Control of marine weather data at the very source.
- Paperless
- AMVER (Automated Vessel Rescue System)-

Ship track reporting input for departure, arrival and deviation. Daily updates not needed if taking weather observations, position information forwarded to USCG by NOAA. Unlimited way points.